

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02567 091645Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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A-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 IO-11 AID-05 /092 W

----- 130819

R 091437Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1016

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2567

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR IS JO

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON GUSH EMUNIM MARCH TO JERICHO

REF: JERUSALEM 470

1. JERUSALEM POST, HAARETZ AND AL-HAMISHMAR (MAPAM-AFFILIATED) HAVE RUN EDITORIALS DURING PAST WEEK CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW ITS PERMISSION FOR GUSH EMUNIM TO HOLD APRIL 18-19 MARCH FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO.

2. HAARETZ EDITORIAL APRIL 8 POINTS OUT THAT THE MORE PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARCH, THE GREATER WILL BE THE PROMINENCE OF THE MILITARY FORCE PROMISED FOR THEIR PROTECTION. THE IDF WILL THUS BE ON THE WEST BANK IN GREAT NUMBERS WITHOUT ANY PROVOCATION FROM THE ARAB POPULATION. THE DENIAL BY PRIMIN RABIN THAT THE MARCH IS A POLITICAL EVENT IS EITHER NAIVE OR A SIGN OF WEAKNESS; EVEN IF NO EFFORT IS MADE TO IMPLANT THE NUCLEUS OF A SETTLEMENT NEAR JERICHO, THE OFFICIAL PERMISSION GIVEN FOR THE MARCH IS LIABLE TO BE INTERPRETED AS TOLERANCE OF GUSH EMUNIM AND ITS PLANS BY BOTH ARAB EXTREMISTS AND THE GUSH ITSELF. HAARETZ CONCLUDES THAT TO ALLOW THE MARCH TO BE HELD WOULD BE A POLITICAL

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 02567 091645Z

MISTAKE, EVEN IF THE IDF ENSURES ORDER.

3. AL-HAMISHMAR EDITORIAL APRIL 5 ALSO CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CANCEL ITS PERMISSION FOR THE MARCH. IT POINTS OUT THAT A SIMILAR EVENT DURING HANNUKAH LAST YEAR LED TO THE UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT AT SEBASTIA AND, IN TURN, TO THE CONTROVERSIAL TEMPORARY QUARTERS AT QADOUM. ACCORDING TO AL-HAMISHMAR THE PROPOSED MARCH, CULMINATING IN A MASS MEETING IN JERICHO, IS NOTHING BUT A POLITICAL MANEUVER WHICH SHOULD BE PREVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

4. JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL APRIL 9 CALLS GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR MARCH "AN EXAMPLE OF OUR APTITUDE FOR INVITING UNNECESSARY TROUBLE". IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO EXPECT CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN ISRAELI FORCES AND WEST BANK RADICALS GIVEN THE PRESENT MOOD AMONG WEST BANKERS. POST ALSO POINTS TO DIFFICULT DEBATE FACING GOVERNMENT AFTER PASSOVER ON SETTLEMENT POLICY IN GENERAL AND QADOUM IN PARTICULAR, AND WONDERS WHY THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INVITE THE ADDITIONAL PRESSURE WHICH MIGHT BE GENERATED BY THE GUSH EMUNIM MARCH. POST CONCLUDES BY APPEALING TO THE GOVERNMENT TO HARNESS THE TACTICAL AND PIONEERING SPIRIT OF GUSH EMUNIM FOR CONSTRUCTIVE TASKS RATHER THAN PERMITTING IT TO BE DIVERTED TO "DIVERSIVE SYMBOLIC GESTURES".  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2004 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, JO, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006